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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Punitive Measures Against Kolkhoz Members in
the Altai Krai

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1. "Between August - September 1952 and mid-February 1953, the whole Upper Altai Autonomous Oblast (in the eastern part of the Altai Krai) was in a virtual state of siege. Numerous MVD detachments, totalling about 8,000 soldiers, were sent into the oblast for garrison duties. Over 630 kolkhozes in the area received permanent MVD detachments. The kolkhoz members were subjected to rigorous security measures, privations and persecution. There were numerous confiscations of cattle kept by kolkhoz members and of grain and other foodstuffs. The pay in kind was decreased to 600 grams per day. The pay in cash due kolkhoz workers for the work day (trudoden) was withheld by the State. These punitive measures were instigated by the disclosure of alleged thefts of grain and cattle by kolkhoz members in this part of the Altai Krai. The state of emergency was ordered by (Inu) Treschev, a high official of the MGB sent from Moscow.
2. "Between 1-15 Feb 53, the Upper Altai Auton. Oblast was visited by a group of officials from Barnaul, headed by Commissar (Inu) Pysin. Following their inspection tour, the MVD received orders to withdraw its punitive detachments from the area. It was found that many kolkhozes had been virtually depopulated by the extermination methods of the MVD detachments. The soldiers had maltreated, beat up and shot kolkhozniki for the slightest offenses. The garrison commandants had had full powers to act as they liked. In the large Voroshilov Kolkhoz in the Biysk rayon, for example, over 80 kolkhoz members were shot dead between October 1952 and February 1953 under various pretexts. The MVD soldiers had used the women for various services and had treated them as prisoners. Because of these ruthless methods the kolkhoz production in the oblast had fallen so low that the secretary of the oblast, (Inu) Saruev, felt compelled to apply to the Kraikom (committee of the Krai) at Barnaul to investigate the case

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-2-

and secure the withdrawal of MVD garrisons.

3. "The MVD garrisons were eventually withdrawn from the kolkhozes. They are now (early March 1953) concentrated in the town of Gorno-Altai, ready for any emergency. The whole area of the Upper Altai Auton Oblast is now patrolled by planes and cavalry detachments of the MVD."

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